



January 22, 2026

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

VIA EMAIL – [Zeldin.Lee@epa.gov](mailto:Zeldin.Lee@epa.gov)

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

The undersigned conservative organizations want to commend you for your leadership in 2025 and look forward to working with you in 2026.

In your first year, you faced an incredible challenge to undo the damage from the previous administration. You have been successful in making this happen while simultaneously advancing a proactive agenda that recognizes environmental protection doesn't require ignoring the rule of law or sound science.

A significant amount of attention has rightly been paid to the EPA's decision to reconsider the 2009 endangerment finding. You didn't back down from the scare tactics and handwringing from climate extremists over revisiting the flawed 2009 finding. Instead, the agency proposed a detailed rule outlining the problems with the endangerment finding. It also made an overwhelming case based on numerous legal arguments as to why the EPA doesn't have statutory authority to promulgate greenhouse gas standards for new motor vehicles.

Your strong leadership goes well beyond the work on the endangerment finding. You led the fight against the Inflation Reduction Act's abuse of taxpayer dollars, such as through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. In March 2025, you announced 31 deregulatory actions in what you called "the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen." This was not some mere announcement but a clear blueprint detailing what to expect from the agency. And you are delivering on this ambitious agenda.

The use of sound science is critical across the federal government, especially at the EPA. President Donald Trump has demonstrated his commitment to sound science through his May 2025 executive order "Restoring Gold Standard Science." The executive order also demonstrates a commitment to properly consider risk. The executive order states "Highly unlikely and overly precautionary assumptions and scenarios should only be relied upon in agency decision-making where required by law or otherwise pertinent to the agency's action."

You have also demonstrated this commitment to sound science and proper risk assessment on issues ranging from Clean Air Act regulation to pesticide regulation. In the past, one of the biggest problems at the EPA has been statutory overreach. Another major problem though has

been the agency's use of junk science, unreasonable risk assessments, and the lack of transparency. The EPA under your leadership appears to recognize this problem.

Imposing an air standard that can have severe economic effects or not approving a chemical that can improve the day-to-day lives of Americans can hurt Americans, drive up prices, and restrict freedom. Therefore, it is critical that such an action is only taken when gold standard science has been the foundation of that action.

As we look back though on what you have accomplished, we want you to know that you have exceeded any reasonable expectations we could have had for a strong EPA administrator.

Please also know that we are available to help make 2026 at the EPA even better than 2025.

Sincerely,

Daren Bakst  
Director, Center for Energy and Environment  
Competitive Enterprise Institute

James L. Martin  
Founder/Chairman  
60 Plus Association

Amy Oliver Cooke  
President and Chairman of the Board  
Always On Energy Research

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis  
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American Association of Senior Citizens

Phil Kerpin  
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American Commitment

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Truth in Energy and Climate